



President & CEO Report

March 24, 2026

Board of Directors Meeting

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page features a cluster of green leaves in various shades (light green, medium green, and dark green) and a single yellow star. The leaves are scattered around the text, with some overlapping it.

Investing Further in Collier's Students & Educators



Goal 1: Students Are Educated and Empowered to Choose and Navigate Their Own Path To Success

Strategy 1.1: Increase the Number of Students Applying to and Admitted to Student Programs

FY26 Status

- We admitted 68 grade eight students, 41 grade ten students, and 10 grade eleven students to student programs for a total of 119 admitted students.
- College and Career Prep Induction Ceremonies will be held on April 11, 2026 at 9 a.m. (Pathways to Success – Foundations) and 11 a.m. (Take Stock in Children) at the Bower Chapel in Moorings Park.



Goal 1: Students Are Educated And Empowered To Choose And Navigate Their Own Path To Success

Strategy 1.2: Increase The Number Of Students And Parents Participating In College And Career Access Support

FY26

- We supported 343 students and 163 parents year-to-date through college and career access activities focused on topics such as FAFSA completion and scholarship applications.



Champions For Learning Student Programs

Core Programming
College & Career Prep Programs
(8th - 12th grade)

Community Based Services

Take Stock in Children
8th Grade Entry Point
State-wide Program Facilitated by
Champions For Learning

Pathways to Success
Champions For Learning Parallel
Program

College & Career Access

Entrepreneurship Program

**Pathways to Success
Foundations**
8th Grade Entry Point - Runs
Parallel to Take Stock In Children

**Pathways to Success
Accelerate**
10th Grade Entry Point - Formerly
College & Career Preparation Program



Goal 2: Educators Have Support and Resources to Experience Professional Success

Strategy 2.1: Strengthen The Value And Impact Of Our Recognition Programs For Educators

FY26

- Our Golden Apple Prize Patrol surprised 6 Golden Apple recipients and generated good press coverage and social media activity. The delivery crew included Selection Committee volunteers, donors, Board members, staff members, Dr. Ricciardelli and members of her leadership team, and members of the press.
- We will celebrate the 6 Golden Apple honorees and 58 Teachers of Distinction at the Golden Apple Celebration of Teachers on April 17, 2026 at the Hyatt Regency, Coconut Point.
- We continue to honor and celebrate teachers with the one-hour Golden Apple Celebration of Teachers television program on May 23 at 8 p.m. on NBC-2, featuring this year's Golden Apple recipients and Teachers of Distinction.



Goal 2: Educators Have Support and Resources to Experience Professional Success

Strategy 2.2: Increase Grant Awards for Educators

FY26 Status

- \$202,640 of classroom grants were funded, with \$148,567 funded directly by Champions For Learning;
- We worked with CCPS to collaboratively identify the focus for the first round of Schoolwide Innovation Grants: creating innovative learning environments in elementary school Media Centers that foster collaboration, inquiry, and future-ready skills for students. CCPS is hosting an informational meeting for representatives of elementary schools on March 25. Three schools will be selected from among those that apply. \$150,000 will be awarded in each of the next three years.

Purpose of the Grant

Empowering Schools Through Innovation

The Schoolwide Innovation Grant aims to support transformative change in media centers, leveraging media centers as hubs for improving reading, writing, research, and inquiry across the curriculum, thereby equipping students with the competencies needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.



Transforming Media Centers into Learning Hubs



Collaboration

Media centers promote **team-based learning** and creativity.



Inquiry-Driven

Instruction in media centers fosters **critical thinking skills**.



Literacy-Rich

Students regularly **read, write, discuss, and create**, using a variety of texts and formats, with strong support from educators and peers.

Innovation vs. Renovation

Focus on Transformative Instructional Practices

Innovation

The grant fosters **innovative approaches** to instruction, emphasizing collaborative, inquiry-driven, literacy-rich, environments that go beyond mere upgrades, aiming to enrich student engagement and learning outcomes.

Renovation

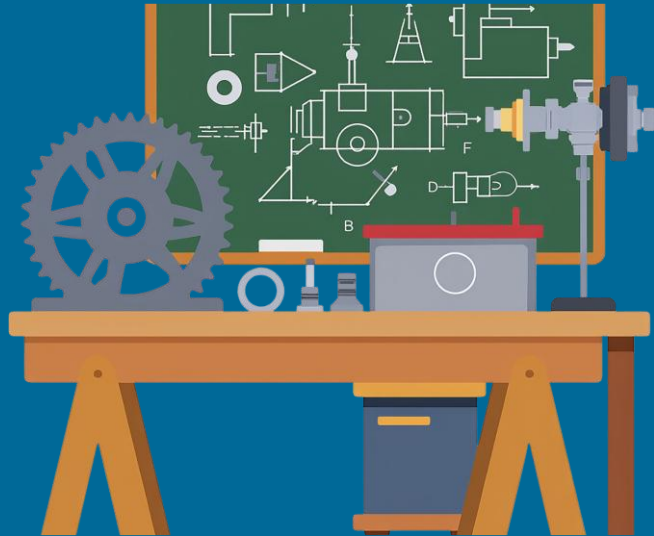
Unlike a simple **renovation**, this initiative focuses on strategic instruction rather than just physical improvements, ensuring that the transformation aligns with educational goals and student needs.



Industry Themes in Education

Fostering Skills for Future Careers

The grant emphasizes key themes such as engineering, computer science, medical fields, and entrepreneurship, ensuring students develop relevant skills and knowledge for future success.





Goal 3: Engage volunteers and donors as champions for learning, helping fulfill their passions and interests

Strategy 3.1: Sustain, expand, and improve volunteer recruitment, engagement, support, and recognition.

Strategy 3.2: Refine and implement community outreach and engagement strategies to secure volunteers.

FY26 Status

- We hosted 18 learning sessions/connection events YTD reaching 334 volunteers across student, educator, and entrepreneurship programs. 5 more sessions/events are planned.
- We successfully engaged current volunteers in bringing potential new volunteers to our Volunteer Recruitment Social. 37 people attended, about half of whom were prospective volunteers.
- We have recruited 37 mentors for our College and Career Pathways Programs. 3 male mentors and 28 female mentors are still needed.
- The CFL Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at The Players Club and Spa.



Goal 3: Engage volunteers and donors as champions for learning, helping fulfill their passions and interests *New*

Strategy 3.3: Build a more balanced donor pipeline by implementing a systematic approach to donor acquisition, qualification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship *New*

Strategy 3.4: Cultivate and steward donors through authentic, donor-centered relationships that honor their passions and celebrate the impact of their giving *New*

Strategy: 3.5 Generate sustainable revenue, aligning donor partnerships with organizational priorities

FY26 and CY26 Status

- Raised \$3,096,497 YTD with a projected year-end total of \$3,610,000.
- Calendar YTD donors: 44 donors (up to \$499); 21 donors (\$500–\$999); and 94 donors (\$1,000–\$249,999)
- Calendar YTD average gift size: \$49 (up to \$499); \$580 (\$500–\$999); and \$8,861 (\$1,000–\$249,999)
- The 2026 net gala proceeds were \$716,621 in comparison with the 2025 net gala proceeds of \$853,252. 14 donors who gave at the 2025 gala contributed \$71,391 in FY26 without attending a gala. Another 2 donors who gave at the 2025 gala contributed or committed to give \$1,050,000 in FY26.



General Update

- Students enrolled in the entrepreneurship classes at CCPS high schools will continue to participate in the final school pitches in the coming weeks. The 2026 District Innovation Competition will be held on April 9 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- We initiated the FY27 budget process, including selection of Martus budgeting software to support informed budget development and management among budget holders throughout the organization.
- The Principals Breakfast will be held from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on March 31 at the Vineyards Country Club. Special thanks to Corky Carlsen, Martha Rozman, Denise Murphy and others who solicited gift bag items.



General Update

- The Board Development Committee met on March 10 to discuss the slate of Board Officers and members.
- The Finance Committee met March 12 to review financial statements.
- The Executive Committee met March 17 in preparation for the Board of Directors meeting.
- The Gala Committee met March 18 to debrief regarding the gala.
- The Development Committee met March 19 to debrief regarding the gala and to discuss possibilities for how events will fit in our relationship-based, development work next year.



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